Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer which contains 0.1-30% by mole of unreacted butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester on the basis of carboxyl groups copolymerized in the acrylic elastomer, which method comprises:

determining an amount of butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester that will be copolymerized in a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer; and

adjusting the amount of unreacted butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester in the acrylic elastomer to 0.1 - 30 % by mole on the basis of carboxyl groups copolymerized in the acrylic elastomer to improve compression set characteristics of the acrylic elastomer.

Claim 2 (previously amended): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 1, wherein the butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester is a monoalkyl maleate.

Claims 3-5 (previously canceled)

Claim 6 (previously added): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 1, wherein the acrylic elastomer is a copolymer of at least one of alkyl ~~alkylate~~ acrylate and alkoxyalkyl acrylate with a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester.

Claim 7 (previously added): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 6, wherein the acrylic elastomer is further copolymerized with a vinyl monomer.